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C H I L D R E N.  
B E I N G

An EXACT ACCOUNT of the Conversion, Holy and Exemplary Lives, and Joyful Deaths of several YOUNG CHILDREN.

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By JAMES JANEWAY,  
MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

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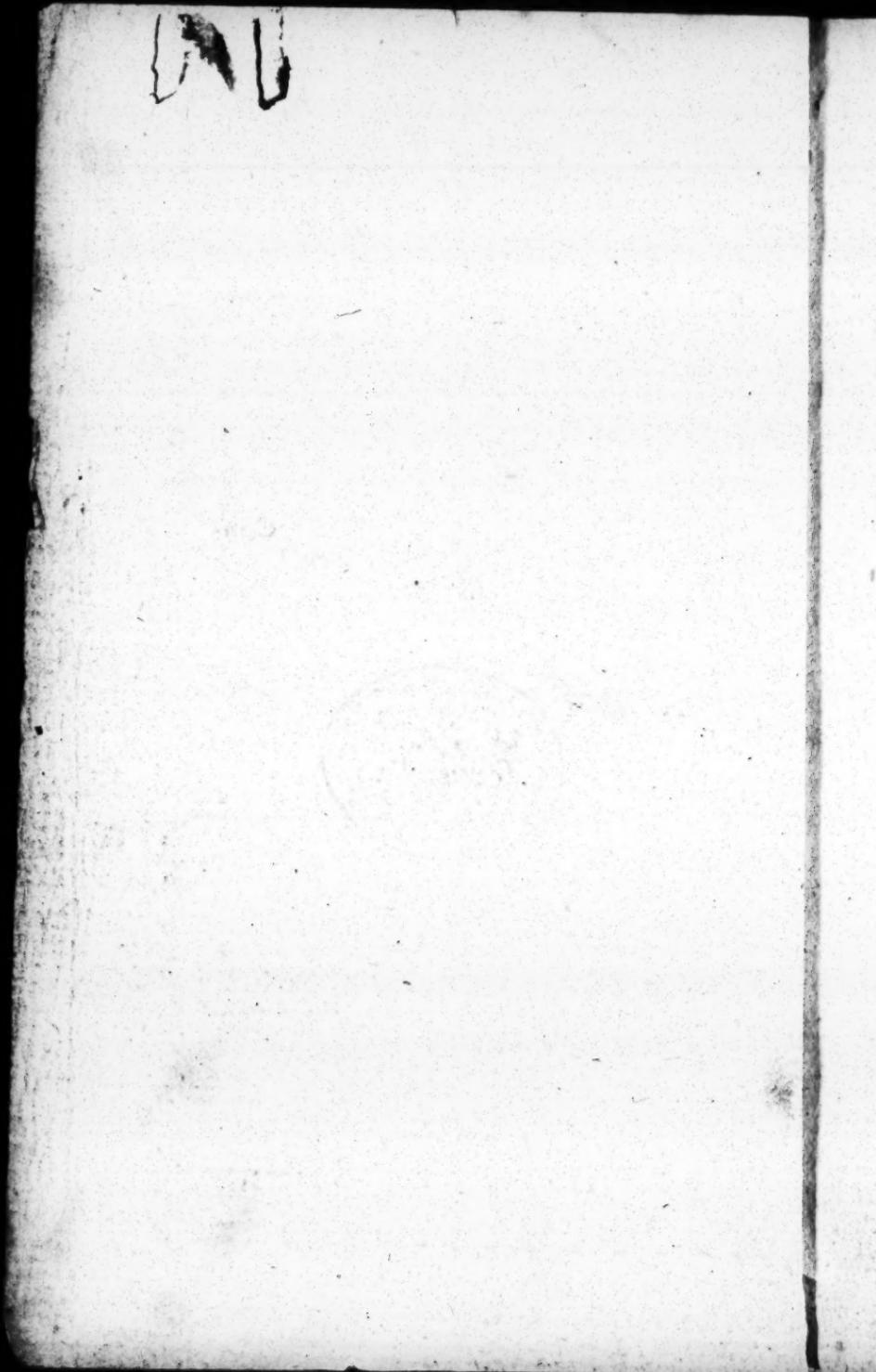
Re-printed from his own genuine Edition,  
with his remarkable PREFACE.

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*Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not: For of such is the Kingdom of God.* Luke x. 24.

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LEEDS:  
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CONTAINING

D I R E C T I O N S

T O

C H I L D R E N.

YOU may now bear (my dear lambs) what other good children have done, and remember how they wept and prayed by themselves; how earnestly they cried out for an interest in the Lord Jesus Christ: May you not read how dutiful they were to their parents? How diligent at their books? How ready to learn the scripture, and their catechisms? Can you forget what

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questions

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questions they were wont to ask? How much they feared a lie, how much they abhorred naughty company, how holy they lived, how dearly they were loved, how joyfully they died.

But tell me, my dear children, and tell me truly, Do you do as these children did? Did you ever see your miserable state by nature? Did you ever get by yourself and weep for sin, and pray for grace and pardon? Did you ever go to your father and mother, master or mistress, and beg of them to pity you, and pray for you, and to teach you what you shall do to be saved; what you shall do to get Christ, heaven, and glory? Dost thou love to be taught good things? Come, tell me truly, my dear Child, for I would fain do what I can possibly to keep thee from falling into everlasting Fire. I would fain have one of those little ones, which Christ will take into his arms and bless. How dost thou spend thy time? Is it in play and idleness, and with wicked children?

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children? Dare you take God's name in vain, or swear, or tell a lie? Dare you do any thing which your parents forbid you, and neglect to do what they command you? Do you dare to run up and down upon the Lord's day, or do you keep in to read your book, and to learn what your good parents command you? What do you say, child? Which of these two sorts are you of? Let me talk a little with you, and ask you a few questions.

1. Were not these children sweet children, which feared God, and were dutiful to their parents? Did not their fathers and mothers, and every body that fears God, love them, and praise them? What do you think is become of them, now they are dead and gone? Why, they are gone to heaven, and are singing hallelujahs with the angels: They see glorious things, and having nothing but joy and pleasure, they shall never sin any more, they shall  
never

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*never be beat any more, they shall never be sick, or in pain any more.*

2. *And would not you have your father's love, your mother's commendation, your master's good word? Would not you have God and Christ love you? And would not you fain go to heaven when you die? And live with your godly parents in glory, and be happy for ever?*

3. *Whither do you think those children go, when they die, that will not do what they are bid, but play the truant, and lie, and speak naughty words, and break the sabbath? Whither do such children go, do you think? Why, I will tell you, they which lie must go to their father the devil, into everlasting burning; they which never pray, God will pour out his wrath upon them; and when they beg and pray in hell fire, God will not forgive them, but there they must lie for ever.*

4. *And*

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4. And are you willing to go to hell to be burned with the devil and his angels? Would you be in the same condition as naughty children? O hell is a terrible place, that is worse a thousand times than whipping; God's anger is worse than your father's anger! and are you willing to anger God? O child, this is most certainly true, that all that be wicked, and die so, must be turned into hell; and if any be once there, there is no coming out again.

5. Would you not do any thing in the world, rather than be thrown into hell fire? Would you not do any thing in the world to get Christ, and grace, and glory?

6. Well now, What will you do? Will you read this book a little, because your good mother will make you do it, and because it is a little new book, but as soon as ever you have done, you run away to play, and never think of it?

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7. How art thou now affected, poor child, in the reading of this book? Have you shed ever a tear since you begun reading? Have you been by yourself upon your knees, and begging that God would make you like these blessed children? Or are you as you used to be, as careless, and foolish, and disobedient, and wicked as ever?

8. Did you never hear of a little child that diea? And if other children die, why may not you be sick and die? And what will you do then, child, if you should have no grace in your heart, and be found like other naughty children?

9. How do you know but that you may be the next child that may die, and where are you then, if you be not God's child!

10. Wilt thou tarry any longer, my dear child, before thou run into thy chamber, and beg to God to give thee

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thee a Christ for thy soul, that thou mayest not be undone for ever? Wilt thou get presently into a corner to weep and pray? Methinks I see that pretty lamb begin to weep, and think of getting by himself, and will as well as he can cry unto the Lord, to make him one of these little ones that go into the kingdom of heaven: Methinks there stands a sweet child, and there another, that are resolved for Christ and for heaven: Methinks that little boy looks as if he had a mind to learn good things: Methinks I hear one say, Well, I will never tell a lie more, I will never keep any naughty boy company more, they will teach me to swear, and they will speak naughty words, they do not love God. I will learn my catechism, and get my mother to teach us to pray, and I will go to weep and cry to Christ, and will not be quiet till the Lord hath given me grace. O that's my brave child indeed!

11. But will you not quickly forget  
your

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your promise? Are you resolved by the strength of Christ to be a good Child? Are you indeed? Nay, but are you indeed? Consider, dear child, God calls you to remember your Creator in the days of your youth; and he takes it kindly when little ones come to him, and love him dearly; and godly people, especially parents, and masters and mistresses, they have no greater joy than to see their children walk in the way of truth.

Now tell me, my pretty dear child, What will you do? Shall I make you a book? Shall I pray for you and entreat you? Shall your good mother weep over you? And will not you make us all glad, by your turning quickly to the Lord? Shall Christ tell you that he will love you? And will not you love him? Will you strive to be like those children? I am persuaded that God intends to do good to the souls of some little children by these papers, because he hath laid it so much upon

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my heart to pray for them, and over these papers, and through mercy I have already experienced, that something of this nature hath not been in vain: I shall give a word of direction, and so leave you.

1. Take heed of what you know is naught: as lying; O that is a grievous fault indeed, and naughty words, and taking the Lord's name in vain, and playing on the Lord's day, and keeping bad company, and playing with ungodly children: but if you go to school with such, tell them that God will not love them, but that the devil will have them, if they continue to be so naught.

2. Do what your father and mother bid you, chearfully; and take

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*take heed of doing any thing that they forbid you.*

3. Be diligent in reading the scripture, and learning your catechism; and what you do not understand, to be sure, ask the meaning of.

4. Think a little sometimes by yourself, about God and Heaven, and your soul, and what Christ came into the world for.

5. And if you have no great mind to do thus, but had rather be at play, than think, what is it that makes me that I do not care for good things; is this like one of God's dear children! I am afraid I am none of God's child, I feel I do not love to come unto him; O! What shall I do! Either I will be God's child or the devil's; O what

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*what shall I do ! I would not be the devil's child, for any thing in the world.*

6. Then go to your father or mother, or some good body, and ask them what thou shalt do to be God's child ; and tell them that thou art afraid, and that thou cannot be contented, till thou hast got the love of God.

7. Get by thyself, into the chamber or garret, and fall upon thy knees, and weep and mourn, and tell Christ thou art afraid that he doth not love thee ; but thou would fain have his love ; beg of him to give thee his grace, and pardon for thy sins, and that he would make thee his child : Tell God thou dost not care who don't love thee, if God will but love thee. Say to him, Father, hast thou not a blessing for me, thy poor little child ? Father, hast thou not a blessing for me, even for me ? O give a Christ ! O give me a Christ ! O let me not be undone for ever ! Thus beg.

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as for your lives, and be not contented till you have an answer; and do thus every day, with as much earnestness as you can, twice a day at least.

8. Give yourself up to Christ; say, Dear Jesus, thou didst bid that little children should be suffered to come unto thee; and, Lord, I am come as well as I can, would fain be thy child; take my heart and make it humble, and meek, and sensible, and obedient. I give myself unto thee, dear Jesus, do what thou wilt with me, so that thou wilt but love me, and give me thy grace and glory.

9. Get acquainted with godly people, and ask them good questions, and endeavour to love their talk.

10. Labour to get a dear love for Christ; read the history of Christ's sufferings, and ask the reason of his sufferings, and never be contented till you see your need of Christ, and the excellency and use of Christ.

11. Hear the most powerful ministers, and read the most searching books;

and

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and get your father to buy you Mr. White's book for little children, and A Guide to Heaven.

12. Resolve to continue in well-doing all your days; then thou shalt be one of those sweet little ones that Christ will take into his arms, and bless, and give a kingdom, crown and glory too. And now, dear children, I have done, I have written to you, I have prayed for you; but what you will do I cannot tell. O children, if you love me, if you love your parents, if you love your souls, if you would escape hell-fire, and if you would live in heaven when you die, do you go and do as these good children, and that you may be your parent's joy, your country's honour, and live in God's fear, and die in his love, is the prayer of your dear Friend,

J. Janeway.

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EXAMPLE I.

*Of one eminently converted between eight and nine years old, with an account of her life and death.*

MISS Sarah Howley, when she was between eight and nine years old, was carried by her friends to hear a sermon, where the minister preached upon Matthew xi. 13. ‘ My yoke is easy, and my burthen is light.’ In the applying of which scripture

scription, this child was mightily awakened, and made deeply sensible of the condition of her soul, and her need of a Christ. She wept bitterly to think what a case she was in; and went home, and got by herself into a chamber, and upon her knees she wept and cried to the Lord as well as she could, which might easily be perceived by her eyes and countenance.

2. She was not contented at this, but she got her little brother and sister into a chamber with her, and told them of their condition by nature, and wept over them, and prayed with them and for them.

3. After this, she heard another sermon upon Prov. xxix. 1. "He  
" that being often reproved, har-  
" deneth his heart, shall suddenly  
" be destroyed, and that without  
" remedy :" At which she was  
more affected than before, and was  
so exceeding solicitous about her  
soul, that she spent a great part of  
the

the night in weeping and praying; and could scarce take any rest day or night for some time together; desiring with all her soul to escape from everlasting flames, and to get an interest in the Lord Jesus.. O what should she do for a Christ ? what should she do to be saved.

4. She gave herself much to attending upon the word preached, and still continued very tender under it, greatly favouring what she heard.

5. She was very much in secret prayer, as might easily be perceived by those who listened at the chamber door; and was usually very importunate, full of tears.

6. She should scarce speak of sin, or be spoke to, but her heart was ready to melt.

7. She spent much time in reading the scripture, and a book called, 'The best friend in the worst of times ;' by which the work of God was much promoted upon her soul.

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soul, and was much directed by it, how to get acquaintance with God, especially toward the end of that book. Another book that she was much delighted with, was, ‘ Mr. Swinnock’s Christian Man’s Calling,’ and by this she was taught in this measure, to make religion her business. The Spiritual Bee was a great companion of hers.

8. She was exceeding dutiful to her parents, very loath to grieve them in the least: And if she had at any time (which was very rare) offended them, she would weep bitterly.

9. She abhorred lying, and allowed herself in no known sin.

10. She was very conscientious in spending of time, and hated idleness; and spent her whole time either in praying, reading, instructing at her needle, at which she was very ingenious.

11. When she was at school, she was eminent for her diligence, teach-

teachableness, meekness, and modesty, speaking little; but when she did speak, it was usually spiritual.

12. She continued in this course of religious duties for some years together.

13. When she was about fourteen years old, she broke a vein in her lungs, (as is supposed) and oft did spit blood, yet did a little recover again, but had several dangerous relapses.

14. At the beginning of January last, she was taken very bad again, in which sickness, she was in great distress of soul. When she was first taken, she said, O mother, pray, pray, pray, for me, for Satan is so busy that I cannot pray for myself. I see I am undone without a Christ, and a pardon ! Oh ! I am undone unto all eternity !

15. Her mother knowing how serious she had been formerly, did a little wonder that she should be in

in such agonies ; upon which her mother asked her, what sin it was that was so burthensome to her spirit ? O mother, said she, it is not any particular sin of omission or commission, that sticks so close to my conscience, as the sin of my nature ; without the blood of Christ that will damn me.

16. Her mother asked her what she should pray for for her ; she answered, That I may have a saving knowledge of sin and Christ ; and that I may have an assurance of God's love to my soul. Her mother asked her, why she did speak so little to the minister that came to her ? She answered, that it was her duty with patience and silence to learn of them ; and it was exceeding painful to her to speak to any.

17. One time when she fell into a fit, she cried out, O I am going, I am going ! But what shall I do to be saved ? Sweet Lord Jesus, I will

## For CHILDREN. 7

will lie at thy feet, and if I perish, it shall be at the fountain of thy mercy.

18. She was much afraid of presumption, and dreaded a mistake in the matters of her soul, and would be often putting up ejaculations to God, to deliver her from deceiving herself. To instance in one: Great and Mighty God, give me faith and true faith, Lord, that I may not be a foolish virgin, having a lamp and no oil.

19. She would many times be laying hold upon the promises, and plead them in prayer. That in Matt. xi. 28, 29, was much in her tongue, and no small relief to her spirit. How many times would she cry out, Lord, hast thou not said, " Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

20. Another time, her father bid her be of good cheer, because she was going to a better father; at which

which she fell into a great passion, and said, but how do I know that? I am a poor sinner that wants assurance. O for assurance! It was still her note, O for assurance! This was her great earnest and constant request to all that came to her, to beg assurance for her; and, poor heart, she would look with so much eagerness upon them, as if she desired nothing in the world so much, as that they would pity her, and help her with their prayers; never was poor creature more earnest for any thing than she was for an assurance and the light of God's countenance: O the piteous moan that she would make! O the agonies that her soul was in!

21. Her mother asked her, if God would spare her life, how she would live? Truly, mother, said she, we have such base hearts, that I cannot tell; we are apt to promise great things when we are sick, but when we are recovered, we are  
as

as ready to forget ourselves, and to turn again unto folly; but I hope I should be more careful of my time and my soul, than I have been.

22. She was full of natural affection to her parents, and very careful lest her mother should be tired out with much watching: Her mother said, how shall I bear parting with thee, when I have scarce dried my eyes for thy brother? She answered, the God of love support and comfort you; it is but a little while, and we shall meet in glory, I hope. She being very weak could speak but little, therefore her mother said, Child if thou hast any comfort, lift up thy hand; which she did.

23. The Lord's day before that in which she died, a kinsman of hers came to see her, and asking of her, whether she knew him; she answered, yes, I know you, and I desire you would learn to know Christ: you are young, but you

know not how soon you may die ;  
and, O to die without a Christ, it  
is a fearful thing : O redeem time ;  
O time, time, time, precious time !  
Being requested by him not to  
spend herself, she said, she would  
fain do all the good she could while  
she lived, and when she was dead  
too, if possible ; upon which ac-  
count, she desired that a sermon  
might be preached at the funeral  
concerning the preciousness of time.  
O that young ones would now re-  
member their Creator !

24. Some minister that came to  
her, did with earnestness beg that  
the Lord would please to give her  
some token for good, that she might  
go off triumphing, and bills of the  
same nature were sent to several  
churches.

25. After she had long waited  
for an answer of their prayers, she  
said, ‘ Well I will venture my soul  
upon Christ.’

26. She carried it with wonder-  
ful

ful patience, and yet would often pray that the Lord would give her more patience, which the Lord answered to astonishment: for considering the pains and agonies that she was in, her patience was next to a wonder; Lord, Lord, give me patience, said she, that I may not dishonour thee.

27. Upon Thursday, after long waiting, great fears, and many prayers, when all her friends thought she had been past speaking, to the astonishment of her friends, she broke forth thus with a very audible voice and cheerful countenance, Lord, thou hast promised, that whosoever comes unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out; Lord, I come unto thee, and surely thou wilt in no wise cast me out. O so sweet: O so glorious is Jesus! O I have the sweet and glorious Jesus; he is sweet, he is sweet, he is sweet! O the admirable love of God in sending Christ! O free grace to

a poor lost creature! And thus she ran on repeating many of these things an hundred times over, but her friends were so astonished to see her in this divine rapture, and to hear such gracious words, and her prayers and desires satisfied, that they could not write a quarter of what she spoke.

28. When her soul was thus ravished with the love of Christ, and her tongue so highly engaged in the magnifying of God; her father, brethren, and sisters, with other of the family, were called, to whom she spake particularly, as her strength would give leave. She gave her bible as a legacy to one of her brothers, and desired him to use that well for her sake; and added to him and the rest: O make use of time to get a Christ for your souls while you are young; remember now your Creator before you come to a sick bed; put not off this great work till then, for then you will

will find it a hard work indeed. I know by experience, the devil will tell you it is time enough ; and ye are young, what need you to be in such haste ? You will have time enough when you are old. But there stands one, (meaning her grandmother) that stays behind, and I that am but young, am going before her. O therefore, make your calling and election sure, while you are in health. But I am afraid this will be but one night's trouble to your thoughts ; but remember these are the words of a dying sister. O if you knew how good Christ were ! O if you had but one taste of his sweetness, you would rather go to him a thousand times, than stay in this wicked world. I would not for ten thousand and ten thousand worlds part with my interest in Christ. O how happy am I that I am going to everlasting joys ! I would not go back again for twenty

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thousand worlds ; and will you not strive to get an interest in Christ ?

29. After this, looking upon one of her father's servants, she said, What shall I do ? What shall I do at the great day, when Christ shall say to me, " Come, thou blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for thee ? " And shall say to the wicked, " Go thou cursed into the lake that burns for ever ? " What a grief is it for me to think that I shall see any of my friends that I knew upon earth, turned into that lake that burns for ever ! O that word for ever, remember that for ever ! I speak these words to you, but they are nothing, except God speak to you too : O pray, pray, pray, that God will give you grace ! and then she prayed ; O Lord finish thy work upon their souls. It will be my comfort to see you in glory ; but it will be your everlasting happiness.

30. Her

30. Her grandmother told her she spent herself too much ; she said, I care not for that, if I could do any soul good. O with what vehemency did she speak, as if her heart were in every word she spoke.

31. She was full of divine sentences, and almost all her discourse from the first to the last in the time of her sickness, was about her soul, Christ's sweetness, and the souls of others ; in a word, like a continued sermon.

32. Upon Friday, after she had had such lively discoveries of God's love, she was exceedingly desirous to die ; and cried out, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, conduct me to thy tabernacle, I am a poor creature without thee ! But, Lord Jesus, my soul longs to be with thee : O when shall it be ! Why not now, dear Jesus ? Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly ; but why do I speak thus ? Thy time, dear Lord, is the best ; O give me patience !

33. Upon

33. Upon Saturday, she spoke very little (being very drowsy) yet now and then she dropped these words : How long sweet Jesus ? Finish thy work sweet Jesus, come away sweet dear Lord Jesus, come quickly ; sweet Lord help, come away, now, now, dear Jesus, come quickly : Good Lord give patience to me to wait thy appointed time ; Lord Jesus help me, help me, help me. Thus at several times (when out of her sleep) for she was asleep the greatest part of the day.

34. Upon the Lord's day, she scarce spoke any thing, but much desired that bills of thanksgiving might be sent to those who had formerly been praying for her, that they might help her to praise God for that full assurance that he had given her of his love ; and seemed to be much swallowed up with the thoughts of God's free love to her soul. She oft commended her spirit into the Lord's hands ; and the

the last words which she was heard to speak, were these, Lord help, Lord Jesus help, Dear Jesus, Blessed Jesus. And thus, upon the Lord's day, between nine and ten of the clock, in the forenoon, she slept sweetly in Jesus, and began an everlasting Sabbath, February 19, 1670.

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## AN HYMN.

## I.

WHAT bless'd examples do we find  
Writ in the word of truth,  
Of children that began to mind  
Religion in their youth.

## II.

Jesus who reigns above the sky  
And keeps the world in awe ;  
Was once a child as young as I,  
And kept his Father's law.

## III.

Samuel, the child, was early brought  
To wait upon the Lord ;  
Young Timothy, by times, was taught  
To know his holy word.

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## EXAMPLE II.

*Of a Child that was admirably affected  
with the things of God, when he was  
between two and three years old;  
with a brief account of his life and  
death.*

1. **A** Certain little child, whose mother had dedicated him to the Lord in the womb: when he could not speak plain, would be crying after God, and was greatly desirous to be taught good things.

2. He could not endure to be put to bed without family duty, but would put his parents upon duty, and would with much devotion kneel down, and with great patience and delight continue till duty was at an end, without the least expression of being weary; and he seemed never so well pleased

ted as when he was engaged in duty.

3. He could not be satisfied with family duty; but he would be often upon his knees by himself in one corner or other.

4. He was much delighted in hearing the word of God either read or preached.

5. He loved to go to school, that he might learn something of God, and would observe and take great notice of what he had read, and come home and speak of it with much affection; and he would rejoice in his book, and say to his mother, O mother! I have had a sweet lesson to-day, will you please to give me leave to fetch my book that you may hear it?

6. As he grew up, he was more and more affected with the things of another world; so that if we had not received our information from one that is of undoubted fidelity, it would seem incredible.

7. He quickly learned to read the scripture, and would with great reverence, tenderness, and groans, read till tears and sobs were ready to hinder him.

8. When he was at secret prayer, he would weep bitterly.

9. He was wont often times to complain of the naughtiness of his heart, and seemed to be more grieved for the corruption of his nature, than for actual sin.

10. He had a vast understanding in the things of God, even next to a wonder, for one of his age.

11. He was much troubled for the wandering of his thoughts in duty, and that he could not keep his heart always fixed upon God, and the work he was about, and his affections constantly raised.

12. He kept a watch over his heart, and observed the workings of his soul, and would complain that they were so vain and foolish, and so little busied about spiritual things.

13. As

13. As he grew up, he grew daily in knowledge and experience, and his carriage was so heavenly, and his discourse so excellent and experimental, that it made those who heard it, even astonished.

14. He was exceeding importunate with God in duty ; and would plead with God at a strange rate, and use such arguments in prayer, that one would think it were impossible should ever enter into the heart of a child ; he would beg, and expostulate, and weep so, that sometimes it could not be kept from the ears of neighbours ; so that one of the next house was forced to cry out, the prayers and tears of that child in the next house will sink me to hell, because by it he did condemn his neglect of prayer, and his slight performance of it.

15. He was very fearful of wicked company, and would oft beg of God to keep him from it,

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and that he might never be pleased in them that took delight in displeasing of God : And when he was at any time in the hearing of their wicked words, taking the Lord's name in vain, or swearing, or any filthy words, it woulde even make him tremble and ready to go home and weep.

16. He abhorred lying with his soul.

17. When he had committed any fault, he was easily convinced of it, and would get into some corner and secret place, and with tears beg pardon of God, and strength against such a sin. He had a friend that oft watched him, and listened at his chamber door from whom I received this narrative.

18. When he had been asked, whether he would commit such a sin again ? he would never promise absolutely, because he said his heart was naught ; but he would weep,

weep, and say, he hoped by the grace of God he should not.

19. When he was left at home alone upon the Sabbath-days, he would be sure not to spend any part of the day in idleness and play, but he busied in praying, reading in the bible, and getting of his catechism.

20. When other children were playing, he would many a time and oft be praying.

21. One day a certain person was discoursing with him about the nature, offices, and excellency of Christ, and that he alone can satisfy for our sins, and merit everlasting life for us, and about other of the great mysteries of redemption: He seemed savingly to understand them, and was greatly delighted with the discourse.

22. One speaking concerning the resurrection of the body, he did acknowledge it; but that the same weak body that was buried

in the church-yard, should be raised again, he thought very strange, but with admiration yielded that nothing was impossible to God ; and that every day that he was taken sick unto death.

23. A friend of his asked him, whether he were willing to die when he was first taken sick ? he answered, No ; because he was afraid of his state as to another world : Why child, said the other, thou didst pray for a new heart, for an humble and a sincere heart, and I have heard thee ; didst thou not pray with thy heart ? I hope I did, said he.

24. Not long after, the same person asked him again, Whether he were willing to die ? He answered, Now I am willing, for I shall go to Christ.

25. One asked him what should become of his sister, if he should die and leave her ? He answered,

The

The will of the Lord must be done.

26. He still grew weaker and weaker, but carried it with a great deal of sweetness and patience, waiting for his change, and at last did chearfully commit his spirit unto the Lord ; and calling upon the name of the Lord, and saying, Lord Jesus, Lord Jesus. In whose bosom he sweetly slept, dying, as I remember, when he was about five or six years old.

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AN HYMN.

I.

HAPPY's the child whose youngest years  
Receive instructions well ;  
Who hates the sinner's path and fears  
The road that leads to hell.

II.

But does devote their youth to God,  
'Tis pleasing in his eyes ;  
A flower, when offer'd in the bud,  
Is no vain sacrifice.

## EXAMPLE III.

*Of a little girl that was wrought upon when she was between four and five years old, with some account of her holy life, and triumphant death.*

1. **M**ARY A. when she was between four and five years old, was greatly affected in hearing the word of God, and became very solicitous about her soul and everlasting condition, weeping bitterly, to think what would become of her in another world, asking strange questions concerning God and Christ, and her own soul. So that this little Mary, before she was full five yerrs old, seemed to mind the one thing needful, and to choose the better part, and sat at the feet of Christ many a time, and oft with tears.

2. She

2. She was wont to be much in secret duty, and many times come off from her knees with tears.

3. She would chuse such times and places for secret duty, as might render her less observed by others, and did endeavour what possibly she could to conceal what she was doing, when she was engaged in secret duty.

4. She was greatly afraid of hypocrisy, and of doing any thing to be seen of men, and to get commendation and praise; and when she hath heard one of her brothers saying, That he had been by himself at prayer, she rebuked him sharply, and told him how little such prayers were like to profit him, and that was little to his praise to pray like a hypocrite, and to be glad that any should know what he had been doing.

5. Her mother being full of sorrow after the death of her husband, this child came to her mother and asked

asked her why she wept so exceedingly? Her mother answered, She had cause enough to weep, because her father was dead: No dear mother, said the child, you have no cause to weep so much, for God is a good God still to you.

6. She was a dear lover of faithful ministers. One time after, she had been hearing of Mr. Whitaker, she said, I love that man dearly, for the sweet words that he speaks concerning Christ.

7. Her book was her delight, and what she did read, she loved to make her own, and cared not for passing over what she learned, without extraordinary observations and understanding; and many times she was so strangely affected in reading of the scriptures, that she would burst out into tears, and would hardly be pacified; so greatly was she taken with Christ's sufferings, the zeal of God's servant, the danger of a natural state.

8. She

8. She would complain often-times of the corruption of her nature, of the hardness of her heart, that she could repent no more thoroughly, and be no more humble and grieved for her sins against a good God ; and when she did thus complain, it was with abundance of tears.

9. She was greatly concerned for the souls of others, and grieved to think of the miserable condition that they were in upon this account ; when she could handsomely, she would be putting in some pretty sweet word of Christ ; but above all, she would do what she could to draw the hearts of her brethren and sisters after Christ ; and there was no small hopes that her example and good counsel did prevail with some of them when they were very young, to get into corners to pray, to ask very gracious questions about the things of God.

10. She

10. She was very conscientious in keeping the Sabbath, spending the whole time either in reading or praying, or learning her catechism, or teaching her brethren and sisters. One time when she was left at home upon the Lord's day, she got some other little children together, with her brothers and sisters, and instead of playing (as other naughty children use to do) she told them, That that was the Lord's day, and that they ought to remember that day to keep it holy; and then she told them how it was to be spent in religious exercises all the day long, except so much as was to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy; then she prayed with them herself, and among other things begged, that the Lord would give grace and wisdom to them little children, that they might know how to serve him, as one of  
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the little ones in the company with her told her afterwards.

11. She was a child of a strange tenderness and compassion to all, full of bowels and pity, whom she could not help, she would be ready to weep over; especially if she saw her mother at any time troubled, she would quickly make her sorrows her own, and weep for her, and with her.

12. When her mother had been somewhat solicitous about any worldly thing, she would, if she could possibly, put her off from her care one way or other. One time she told her, O mother, grace is better than that, (meaning something her mother wanted) I had rather have grace and the love of Christ, than any thing in the world.

13. This child was often musing and busied in the thoughts of her everlasting work; witness that strange question, O what are they doing

doing who are already in heaven? And she seemed to be hugely desirous to be among them that were praising, loving, delighting in God, and serving of him without sin. Her language was so strange about spiritual matters, that she made many excellent Christians to stand amazed, as judging it scarce to be paralleled.

14. She took great delight in reading of the scripture, and some part of it was more sweet to her than her appointed food, she would get several choice scriptures by heart, and discourse of them savourly, and apply them suitably.

15. She was not altogether a stranger to other good books, but would be reading of them with much affection; and where she might, she noted the books particularly, observing what in the reading did most warm her heart, and she was ready upon occasion to improve it.

16. One

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16. One time a woman coming into the house in a great passion, spoke of her condition, as if none were like hers, and it would never be otherwise; the child said, It were a strange thing to say, when it's night it will never be day again.

17. At another time a near relation of hers being in some streights, made some complaint, to whom she said, I have heard Mr. Carter say, ' A man may go to heaven without a penny in his purse, but not without grace in his heart.'

18. She had an extraordinary love to the people of God; and when she saw any that she thought feared the Lord, her heart would even leap for joy.

19. She loved to be much by herself, and would be greatly grieved if she were at any time deprived of a conveniency for secret duty; she could not live with-

out constant address to God in secret; and was not a little pleased when she could go into a corner to pray and weep.

20. She was much in praising God, and seldom or never complained of any thing but sin.

21. She continued in this course of praying and praising of God, and of great dutifulness and sweetnesse to her parents, and those that taught her any thing, yet she did greatly encourage her mother while she was a widow, and desired that the absence of a husband might in some measure be made up by the dutifulness and holiness of a child. She studied all the ways that could be to make her mother's life sweet.

22. When she was between eleven and twelve years old, she sickened, in which she carried it with admirable patience and sweetnesse, and did what she could with scripture arguments to support and encourage her relations to part with

with her that was going to glory, and to prepare themselves to meet her in a blessed eternity.

23. She was not many days sick before she was marked; which she first saw herself, and was greatly rejoiced to think that she was marked out for the Lord, and was now going apace to Christ. She called to her friends and said, I am marked, but be not troubled, for I know I am marked for one of the Lord's own. One asked her, How she knew that? She answered, the Lord hath told me that I am one of his dear children. And thus she spake with a holy confidence in the Lord's love to her soul, and was not in the least daunted when she spake of her death; but seemed greatly delighted in the apprehension of her nearness to her Father's house. And it was not long before she was filled with joy unspeakable in believing.

24. When she just lay a dying,

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her

her mother came to her and told her, She was sorry that she had reprobred and corrected so good a child so oft. O Mother, said she, speak not thus, I bless God, now I am dying, for your reproofs and corrections too; for it may be, I might have gone to hell, if it had not been for your reproofs and corrections.

25. Some of her neighbours coming to visit her, asked her, if she would leave them? She answered them, If you serve the Lord, you shall come after me to glory.

26. A little before she died, she had a great conflict with Satan, and cried out, I am none of his; her mother seeing her in trouble asked her what was the matter? She answered, Satan did trouble me, but now I thank God, all is well, I know I am none of his, but Christ's.

27. After this, she had a great sense of God's love, and a glorious sight,

For CHILDREN. 37

sight, as if she had seen the very heavens open, and the angels come to receive her ; by which her heart was filled with joy, and her tongue with praise.

28. Being desired by the standers by, to give them a particular account of what she saw, she answered, You shall know hereafter ; and so in an extasy of joy and holy triumph, she went to heaven when she was about twelve years old.  
**Hallelujah.**

## AN HYMN.

## I.

WHY should I say, 'tis yet too soon  
To seek for heav'n or think of death ;  
A flower may fade before 'tis noon,  
And I this day may loose my breath.

## II.

If this rebellious heart of mine,  
Should slight the gracious calls of heav'n ;  
I may be harden'd in my sin  
And never have repentance giv'n.

## III.

What if the Lord in wrath should swear  
Whilst I neglect to read and pray ;  
That he'll refuse to lend an ear  
To call my groans another day.

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## EXAMPLE IV.

*Of a child that began to look towards heaven when she was about four years old, with some observable passages in her life and at her death.*

1. **A** Certain little child, when she was about four years old, had a conscientious sense of her duty towards her parents, because the commandment saith, Honour thy father and thy mother. And though she had little advantage of education, she carried it with the greatest reverence to her parents imaginable, so that she was no small credit as well as comfort to them.

2. It was no unusual thing for her to weep, if she saw her parents troubled, though herself had not been the occasion of it.

3. When

3. When she came from school, she would with grief and abhorrency, say, That other children had sinned against God by speaking grievous words, which were so bad, that she durst not speak them again.

4. She would be oftentimes admiring of God's mercy for so much goodness to her, rather than to others; that she saw some begging, others blind, some crooked, and that she wanted nothing that was good for her.

5. She was many a time, and often in one hole or another in tears upon her knees.

6. This poor little thing would be ready to counsel other little children, how they ought to serve God; and putting them upon getting by themselves to pray; and hath been known when her friends have been abroad, to have been teaching children to pray, especially upon the Lord's day.

7. She

7. She very seriously begged the prayers of others, that they would remember her, that the Lord would give her grace.

8. When this child saw some that were laughing, who she judged to be very wicked, she told them, that she feared that they had little reason to be merry. They asked, Whether they might not laugh? She answered, No, indeed, till you have grace; they who are wicked have more need to cry than to laugh.

9. She would say, That it was the duty of parents, masters, and mistresses, to reprove (those under their charge) for sin, or else God will meet with them.

10. She would be very attentive when she read the scriptures, and be much affected with them.

11. She would by no means be persuaded to prophane the Lord's day, but would spend it in some good duties.

12. When

12. When she went to school, it was willingly and joyfully, and she was very teachable and exemplary to other children.

13. When she was taken sick, one asked her, Whether she were willing to die? She answered, Yes, if God would pardon her sins. Being asked how her sins should be pardoned? She answered, through the blood of Christ.

14. She said, she did believe in Christ, and desired, and longed to be with him, and did with a great deal of cheerfulness give up her soul.

There were very many observable passages in the life and death of this child, but the hurry and grief that her friends were in, buried them.

## AN HYMN.

## I.

WHY should I join with those in play  
In whom I don't delight ;  
Who curse and swear, but never pray,  
Who call ill names and fight.

## II.

Lord, may I hate to walk or dwell,  
With wicked children here ;  
That I may not be sent to hell,  
Where none but sinners are.

## EXAMPLE V.

Of a pious life and joyful death of a  
child which died when he was a-  
bout 12 years old, 1632.

I. CHARLES Bridgeman had  
no sooner learned to speak,  
but he betook himself to prayer.

2. He

2. He was very prone to learn the things of God.

3. He would be sometimes teaching them their duty that waited upon him.

4. He learned by heart many good things before he was well fit to go to school: And when he was sent to school, he carried it so, that all that observed him, either did or might admire him. O the sweet nature, the good disposition, the sincere religion which was in this child!

4. When he was at school, what was it that he desired to learn but Christ and him crucified?

6. So religious and savoury were his words, his actions so upright, his devotion so hearty, his fear of God so great, that many were ready to say, as they did of John, ‘What manner of child shall this be?’

7. He would be much in reading the holy scriptures.

8. He

8. He was desirous of more spiritual knowledge, and would be oft asking very serious and admirable questions.

9. He would not stir out of doors before he had poured out his soul to the Lord.

10. When he eat any thing he would be sure to lift up his heart unto the Lord for a blessing upon it; and when he had moderately refreshed himself by eating, he would not forget to acknowledge God's goodness in feeding of him.

11. He would not lie down in his bed till he had been upon his knees; and when sometimes he had forgotten his duty, he would quickly get out of his bed, and kneeling down upon his bare knees, covered with no garment but his linen, asked God forgiveness for that sin.

12. He would rebuke his brethren if they were at any time too hasty at their meals, and did eat

F with-

without asking a blessing ; his check was usually this : Dare you do thus ? God be merciful to us, this bit of bread might choak us.

13. His sentences were wise and weighty, and well might become some ancient christian.

14. His sickness was a lingering disease, against which, to comfort him, one tells him of possessions that must fall to his portion : And what are they, said he, I had rather have the kingdom of heaven than a thousand such inheritances.

15. When he was sick, he seemed much taken up with heaven, and asked very serious questions about the nature of his soul.

16. After he was pretty well satisfied about that, he enquired how his soul might be saved ; the answer being made, by the applying of Christ's merits by faith ; he was pleased with the answer, and was ready to give any one, that should desire it, an account of his hope.

17. Being

17. Being asked, whether he had rather live or die? He answered, I desire to die that I may go to my Saviour.

18. His pains increasing upon him, one asked him, Whether he would rather still endure those pains or forsake Christ? Alas! said he, I know not what to say, being but a child: for these pains may stagger a strong man; but I will strive to endure the best that I can. Upon this, he called to mind that martyr Thomas Bilney, who being in prison, the night before his burning, put his finger into the candle, to know how he could endure the fire. O (saith the child) had I lived then, I would have run through the fire to have gone to Christ:

19. His sickness lasted long, and at least three days before his death, he prophesied his departure, and not only that he must die, but the very day. On the Lord's day, said he, Look to me: neither was this

a word of course, which you may guess by his often repetition, every day asking, till the day came indeed. What, is Sunday come? At last the looked-for day came on; and no sooner had the sun beautified that morning with its light, but he falls into a trance; his eyes were fixed, his face cheerful, his lips smiling, his hands and face clasped in a bow, as if he would have received some blessed angel that were at hand to receive his soul: But he comes to himself, and tells them how he saw the sweetest body that ever eyes beheld, who bid him be of good cheer, for he must presently go with him.

21. One that stood near him, as now suspecting the time of his dissolution nigh, bid him say, Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit, which is thy due; for why, thou hast redeemed it, O Lord, my God, most true.

22. The

22. The last words which he spake, were exactly these: ‘ Pray, pray, pray, nay, yet pray; and the more prayers, the better all prospers; God is the best physician; into his hands I commend my spirit, O Lord Jesus, receive my soul! Now close mine eyes: Forgive me, father, mother, brother, sister, all the world. Now I am well, my pain is almost gone, my joy is at hand. Lord have mercy on me! O Lord receive my soul unto thee.’ ! And thus he yielded his spirit up unto the Lord, when he was about twelve years old.

This Narrative was taken out of Mr. Ambrose's Life's Lease,

## AN HYMN.

I.

**H**OW glorious is our heavenly king  
 That reigns above the sky ;  
 How shall a child presume to sing  
 His dreadful Majesty.

II.

Quo may I join the heav'ly train,  
 And my first off'rings bring ;  
 Th' eternal God will not disdain  
 To hear an infant sing.

## EXAMPLE VI.

*Of a poor child that was awakened  
 when he was about five years old.*

I. **A**Certain very poor child,  
 that had a very bad father,  
 but it was to be hoped a very good  
 mother, was by the providence of  
 God brought to the sight of a god-  
 ly friend of mine, who upon the  
 first

first sight of the child had a great pity for him, and had an affection to him, and had a mind to bring him up for Christ.

2. At the first he did with great sweetness and kindness allure the child, by which means it was not long before he got a deep interest in the heart of the child, and he began to obey him with more readiness than children usually do their parents.

3. By this a door was opened for a farther work, and he had a greater advantage to instil spiritual principles into the soul of the child, which he was not wanting in, as the Lord gave opportunity, and the child was capable of.

4. It was not long before the Lord was pleased to strike in with the spiritual exhortations of this good man, so that the Child was brought to a liking of the things of God.

5. He

5. He quickly learnt a great part of the Assembly's catechism by heart, and that before he could read his primmer within book; and he took a great delight in learning his catechism.

6. He was not only able to give a very good account of his catechism, but he would answer such questions as are not in the catechism, with greater understanding than could be expected of one of his age.

7. He took great delight in discoursing about the things of God; and when my friend had been either praying or reading, expounding or repeating of sermons, he seemed very attentive, and ready to receive the truths of God, and would with incredible gravity, diligence and affection, wait till duties were ended, to the no small joy and admiration of them which observed him.

8. He would ask very excellent questions, and discourse about the

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condition of his soul and heavenly things, and seemed mightily concerned what should become of his soul when he should die; so that his discourse made some christians even to stand astonished.

9. He was greatly taken with the great kindness of Christ in dying for sinners, and would be in tears at the mention of them; and seemed at a strange rate to be affected with the unspeakable love of Christ.

10. When no body hath been speaking to him, he would burst out into tears, and being asked the reason, he would say, that the very thoughts of Christ's love to sinners in suffering for them, made him that he could not but cry.

11. Before he was six years old, he made conscience of a secret duty; and when he prayed, it was with such extraordinary meltings, that his eyes have looked red and sore with weeping by himself for his sin.

12. He would be putting of christians upon spiritual discourse when he saw them, and seemed little satisfied unless they were talking of good things.

13. It is evident that this poor child's thoughts were very much busied about the things of another world, for he would oftentimes be speaking to his bed-fellow at midnight, about the matter of his soul ; and when he could not sleep, he would take heavenly conference to be sweeter than his appointed rest. This was his usual custom, and thus he would provoke and put forward an experienced christian to spend waking hours in talk of God and the everlasting rest.

14. Not long after this, his good mother died, whith went very near his heart, for he greatly honoured his mother.

15. After the death of his mother, he would often repeat some of the promises that are made unto father-

fatherless children, especially that in Exod. xxiii. 22. "Ye shall not afflict any widow or the fatherless child; if thou afflict them in anywise, and they cry at all unto me. I will surely hear their cry." — These words he would often repeat with tears, and say, I am fatherless and motherless upon earth, yet if any wrong me; I have a Father in heaven who will take my part: to him I commit myself, and in him is all my trust.

16. Thus he continued in a course of holy duties, living in the fear of God, and shewed wonderful grace for a child, and died sweetly in the faith of Jesus.

My friend is a judicious christian of many years experience, who was no ways related to him, but a constant eye and ear witness of his godly life, and honourable and cheerful death, from whom I received this information.

## AN HYMN.

## I.

**T**HE praises of my tongue,  
I offer to the Lord ;  
That I was taught and learnt so young,  
To read his holy word.

## II.

Dear Lord, this book of thine  
Instructs me where to go ;  
For grace to pardon all my sin,  
And make me holy too.

## EXAMPLE VII.

*Of a notorious wicked child, who was taken up from begging, and admirably converted; with an account of his holy life and joyful death, when he was nine years old.*

**A** VERY poor child of the parish of Newington-Buts, came begging to the door of a dear christian

christian friend of mine, in a very lamentable case, so filthy and nasty that he would even have turned one's stomach to have looked on him: But it pleased God to raise in the heart of my friend a great pity and tenderness towards this poor child, so that in charity he took him out of the streets, whose parents were unknown, who had nothing at all in him to commend him to any one's charity, but his misery. My friend eyeing the glory of God, and the good of the immortal soul of this wretched creature, discharged the parish of the child, and took him as his own, designing to bring him up for the Lord Christ. A noble piece of charity! And that which did make the kindness far the greater, was, that there seemed to be very little hopes of doing any good upon this child, for he was a very monster of wickedness, and a thousand times more miserable and vile by his sin than

by his poverty. He was running to hell as soon as he could go, and was old in naughtiness when he was young in years; and one shall scarce hear of one so like the devil in his infancy as this poor child was. What sin was there (that his age was capable of) that he did not commit? What by the corruption of his nature, and the abominable example of little beggar boys, he was arrived to a strange pitch of impiety. He would call filthy names, take God's name in vain, curse and swear, and do almost all kind of mischief; and as to any thing of God, worse than a heathen.

2. But this sin and misery was but a stronger motive to that gracious man to pity him, and to do all that possibly he could to pluck this fire-brand out of the fire; and it was not long before the Lord was pleased to let him understand, that he had a design of everlasting kindness

ness upon the soul of this poor child : for no sooner had this good man taken this creature into his house but he prays for him, and labours with all his might to convince him of his miserable condition by nature, and to teach him something of God, the worth of his own soul, and that eternity of glory or misery that he was born to ; and blessed be free grace, it was not long before the Lord was pleased to let him understand, that it was himself which put it into his heart to take in this child, that he might bring him up for Christ. The Lord soon struck in with his godly instructions, so that an amazing change was seen in the child ; in a few weeks space he was soon convinced of the evil of his ways ; no more news now of his calling of names, swearing, or cursing ; no more taking of the Lord's name in vain ; now he is civil and respectful, and such a strange alteration

was wrought in the child, that all the parish that rung of his villainy before, was now ready to talk of his reformation; his company, his talk, his employment is now changed, and he is like another creature; so that the glory of God's free grace began already to shine in him.

3. And this change was not only an eternal one, and to be discerned abroad, but he would get by himself, and weep and mourn bitterly for his horrible wicked life, as might easily be perceived by them that lived in the house with him.

4. It was the great care of his godly master to strike in with those convictions which the Lord had made, and to improve them all he could; and he was not a little glad to see that his labour was not in vain in the Lord; he still experiences that the Lord doth carry on his own work mightily upon the heart of the child, he is still more and more

more broken under a sense of his undone state by nature; he is oft in tears and bemoaning his lost and miserable condition. When his master did speak of the things of God, he listened earnestly, and took in with much greediness and affection what he was taught. Seldom was there any discourse about soul matters in his hearing, but he heard it as if it were for his life, and would weep greatly.

5. He would after his master had been speaking to him, or others, of the things of God, go to him and question with him about them, and beg of him to instruct and teach him further, and to tell him those things again, that he might remember and understand them better.

6. Thus he continued seeking after the knowledge of God and Christ, and practising holy duties, till the sickness came into the house, with which the child was smitten;

at his first sickening the poor child was greatly amazed and afraid, and though his pains were great, and the distemper very tedious, yet the sense of his sin, and the thought of the miserable condition that he feared his soul was still in, made his trouble ten times greater : he was in grievous agonies of spirit, and his former sins stared him in the face, and made him tremble ; the poison of God's arrows did even drink up his spirits ; the sense of sin and wrath was so great, that he could not tell what in the world to do ; the weight of God's displeasure, and the thoughts of lying under it to all eternity, did even break him to pieces, and he did cry out very bitterly, What he should do ! He was a miserable sinner, and he feared that he should go to hell ; his sins had been so great and so many, and there were no hopes for him. He was not by far so much concerned for his life, as for his soul,

soul, what would become of that for ever. Now the plague upon his body seemed nothing to that which was in his soul.

7. But in this great distress the Lord was pleased to send one to take care for his soul, who urged to him the great and precious promises which were made to one in his condition, telling him that there was enough in Christ for the chiefest of sinners, and that he came to seek and save such a lost creature as he was. But this poor child found it a very difficult thing for him to believe that there was any mercy for such a dreadful sinner as he had been.

8. He was made to cry out of himself, not only for his swearing and lying, and other outwardly notorious sins; but he was in great horror for the sin of his nature, for the vileness of his heart, and original corruption; under it he was in so great anguish, that the trouble

ble of his spirit made him in a great measure to forget the pains of his body. He did also confess and bewail his sins with tears; and some sins so secret, that none in the world could charge him with.

10. He would condemn himself for sin, as deserving to have no mercy, thought there was not a greater sinner in all London than himself, and he abhorred himself as the vilest creature he knew.

11. He did not only pray much with strong cries and tears himself, but he begged the prayers of christians for him.

12. He would ask christians, Whether they thought there were any hopes for him, and would beg of them to deal plainly with him, for he was greatly afraid of being deceived.

13. Being informed how willing and ready the Lord Christ was to accept of poor sinners upon their repentance and turning, and being coun-

counselled to venture himself upon Christ, for mercy and salvation, he said, He would fain cast himself upon Christ, but he could not but wonder how Christ should be willing to die for such a vile wretch as he was, and he found it one of the hardest things in the world to believe.

14. But at last it pleased the Lord to give him some small hopes that there might be mercy for him, tho' he had been the chiefeſt of sinners : and he was made to lay a little hold upon ſuch promises as that, "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." But, O how did this poor boy admire and bleſſ God for the leaſt hopes ! How highly did he advance free and rich grace that ſhould pity and pardon him ! and at laſt he was full of praife, and admiring of God ; ſo that (to ſpeak in the words of a precious man that was an eye and ear witness) to the  
praise

praise and glory of God be it spoken, the house at that day, for all the sickness in it, was a little lower heaven so full of joy and praise.

15. The child grew exceedingly in knowledge, experience, patience, humility, and self-abhorrence; and he thought he could never speak bad enough of himself; the name that he would call himself by was a toad.

16. And though he prayed before, yet now the Lord poured out upon him the spirit of prayer in an extraordinary manner, for one of his age; so that now he prayed more frequently, more earnestly, more spiritually than ever. O how eagerly would he beg to be washed in the blood of Jesus! and that the King of kings, and Lord of lords, that was over heaven and earth, and sea, would pardon and forgive him all his sins, and receive his soul into his kingdom. And what he spoke, it was with so much life and fervour

fervour of spirit, as that it filled the hearers with astonishment and joy.

17. He had no small sense of the use and excellency of Christ, and such longings and breathings of his soul after him, that when mention had been made of Christ, he hath been ready almost to leap out of his bed for joy.

18. When he was told, that if he should recover, he must not live as he list; but he must give up himself to Christ, and to be his child and servant, to bear his yoke, and be obedient unto his laws, and live a holy life, and take his cross, and suffer mocking and reproach; it may be persecution for his name's sake.

Now, child, (said one to him) are you willing to have Christ upon such terms? He signified his willingness by the earnestness of his looks and words, and the casting up of his eyes to heaven, saying,

Yes,

Yes, with all my soul, the Lord helping me, I will do this.

19. Yet he had many doubts and fears, and was ever and anon harping upon that, that though he were willing, yet Christ he feared was not willing to accept him, because of the greatness of his sin; yet his hopes were greater than his fears.

20. The Wednesday before he died, the child lay as it were in a trance for about half an hour, in which time he thought he saw a vision of angels: When he was out of his trance, he was in a little pet, and asked his nurse, Why she did not let him go: Go, whither child? said she: Why along with those brave gentlemen (said he) but they told me they would come and fetch me away for all you, upon Friday next. And he doubled his words many times upon Friday next, those brave gentlemen will come for me; and upon that day the child died joyfully.

21. He

21. He was very thankful to his master, and very sensible of his great kindness in taking him out of the streets when he was a begging, and he admired the goodness of God, which put it into the mind of a stranger to look upon and to take such fatherly care of such a pitiful sorry creature as he was. O my dear mother, (said he) and child of God, I hope to see you for I am sure you will. O blessed, blessed be God you to take pity upon me, I might have died, and the devil, and have for ever, if it had

## 22. The Thursday

he asked a very good question, what he thought of his condition, and whither his soul was now going, for he said he was not still but fear lest he should deceive himself, with false hopes; at which my friend spoke to him thus:

' Child, for all that I have endeavoured.

## A TOKEN

voured to hold forth the grace of God in Christ to thy soul, and given you a warrant from the word of God, that Christ is as freely offered to you, as to any sinner in the world; if thou art but willing to accept of him, thou mayest have Christ and all that thou dost want him; and yet thou givest way to thy doubtings and fears, I told thee nothing but I vest, thou fearest that accept of thee; I willingly willing to answer, child, illing to is a thou nning to have ee, and save thee, to desire it. And now at this time Christ offers himself freely to thee again; therefore receive him humbly by faith into thy heart, and bid him welcome, for he deserveth it: Upon which words

words the Lord discovered his love to the child, and he gave a kind of leap in his bed, and snapt his fingers and thumb together with abundance of joy, as much as to say, Well, yea, all is well, the match is made, Christ is willing, and I am willing too; and now Christ is mine, and I am his for ever. And from that time forward, in full joy and assurance of God's love, he continued earnestly praising God, with desiring to die, and be with Christ. And on Friday morning he sweetly went to rest, using that very expression, ' Into thy hand, O Lord, I commit my spirit.' He died punctually at that time which he had spoke of, and in which he expected those angels to come to him; he was not much above nine years old when he died.

This narrative I had from a judicious holy man, unrelated to him, who was an eye and ear-witness to all these things.

## A TOKEN.

## AN HYMN.

## I.

WHY should I love my sport so well,  
So constant at my play;  
And lose the thoughts of heav'n and hell,  
And then forget to pray?

## II.

How senseless is my heart and wild?  
How vain are all my thoughts?  
Pity the weakness of a child,  
And pardon all my faults.

## III.

Make me thy heavenly voice to hear,  
And let me love to pray;  
Since God will lend a gracious ear  
To what a child can say.

THE

THE  
CONCLUSION.

NOW, my dear children, now you have read all these stories of these holy children, do not you long to be like them? Why should not you love God as well, and as much as they? I can and do assure you, God will love, and doth love you, as much as he loved them, if thou art and dost as they did? Do not your hearts leap within you for joy, to think that one day I shall be in heaven, where I shall be with the blessed angels, and with Christ, and with God, which is best of all? do not you think it will be worth all your pains to have Christ at the day of judgment, say, "Come you

H. 3      " blessed

## A TOKEN

" blessed of my Father, inherit the  
" kingdom prepared for you from  
" the foundation of the World ;"  
for when other children have been  
playing, you have been praying.  
Then shall you hear Christ saying  
to your wicked school-fellows, and  
other cursed children that would  
mock you, when you told them of  
their swearing, and persuaded them  
to pray, and read good books ; I  
say, then you shall hear Christ say  
unto them, " Go ye cursed into  
" everlasting fire, prepared for the  
" devil and his angels." Alas ! it  
would make one's heart ach, to con-  
sider what will be the miserable con-  
dition of those wicked children that  
do not go to prayer, but play at  
church, and tell lies ; and do such-  
like wickedness ; let me open those  
words a little, what will become  
of those wicked wretches, when  
God shall say, Get you gone out  
of my sight for ever, I cannot en-  
dure to see you, for you could not  
endure

endure to pray, nor do any thing I bid you do? so then, these wicked children shall never come where God and Christ is, for ever shall they be banished from the blessed presence of God.

And now, my dear little children, with whom I desire to travail in birth, until Christ be formed in you, 'The love of God the Father, who so loved the world that he hath given his only begotten Son, and not spared him, that he might spare us; And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath died, or rather is risen again, and sitteth at the right hand of God, and liveth for ever to make intercession for us; and the comforting sanctifying presence of the Holy Ghost, be with you, to guide and sanctify you, and to seal you to the day of redemption, and to bless you in your bodies, souls, friends, studies, and all your lawful employments, and in that belongs unto you, and to bring

bring you to everlasting glory when  
the times of refreshing shall come  
from the presence of the Lord.  
Amen, Amen.



A

16

